



The Access Programs University Fund (APUF) is designed to support new and existing access programs that support students, who without intervention, would not traditionally access or thrive in post-secondary education.

Please refer to the following guidelines and parameters as you complete the [APUF 2025-26 Budget Form](#):

APUF 2025-26 Budget Guidelines

1. U of T services and vendors

We encourage you to propose the most economical options for expenditures related to travel, food, accommodation, etc. It is recommended that APUF applicants use existing University of Toronto resources and services where appropriate, including, technical supports, vendors, professional services, etc. Please consider relevant U of T / public sector vendor [procurement policies](#) as you submit related expenses.

2. Faculty time

Faculty time should be included as in-kind support in the budget. APUF does not cover financial costs for faculty participation.

3. Staffing costs

A case should be made for staffing costs, including One Time Only (OTO) requests. Hourly wages must be commensurate with job function and duties. The APUF committee may request justification for wages that exceed average compensation levels as outlined by University of Toronto policies. Overall, staffing costs must align with the scope and duration of your proposed activities. Please consult your divisional CAO and /or HR Consultant for approval for the project staffing plans. For short term project staffing, please visit the [UTemp](#) website for recruitment protocols.

4. Student stipends

Student stipend amounts vary across the institution depending on various factors, such as the type of work and skill level required and previous experience and educational level of the student (e.g. undergraduate, graduate, professional program student). Please refer to your departmental guidelines and/or consult your Business Officer for the appropriate ranges for remuneration for student stipend support before submitting your budget.

5. Incentives and Honorariums

Incentives (i.e., gift cards, honorariums, stipends for focus group/study participants and guest speakers) must not exceed 5% of the total APUF budget.

6. Transportation/parking

The most economical means of transportation for participants is permitted. Parking is an allowable expense for off-site events directly related to implementation. Transportation and parking for staff is not an allowable expense.

7. Research, training, and dissemination

APUF does not cover research expenses. Costs associated with research, training and conferences that does not include or directly benefit participants of the access and outreach initiative are not permitted.

Student research opportunities may be eligible for funding if it can be clearly articulated how student research supports the goals of “access to PSE” (include in the initiative description and budget rationale sections).

8. Conference funding

APUF will not cover conference attendance fees. It is recommended that you look to other sources to fund student attendance such as the SGS conference grant or professional development funds. For staff or faculty, there may be departmental or institutional resources that are available.

9. Group membership fees

APUF will not cover student or faculty organizational or association membership fees. If you have any questions related to eligible expenses, please contact our office.

10. Hardware and equipment

Hardware and equipment costs are generally not supported through APUF. If the purchase of hardware and equipment is essential to the proposed initiative, please submit a clear rationale for why an exception should be made in this case. In these cases, cost-sharing at a minimum of 50% will be expected and a plan for security and retention of hardware and equipment must be included in your application.

11. Unused funds and carry-over amount

By the end of the first year, all costs except those related to project implementation must be expended. By the end of the second year, all costs including those related to project implementation must be expended. It is a requirement to return any unused funds (greater than \$500), as outlined in the final project report, to APUF to fund future projects.

Carry-over amount (Year 1)

Requests for funding extensions after 1 year (for funds other than implementation) must be made in writing to the Access Strategy & Partnerships Office for consideration **before the end of Year 1**. Late requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If a request for a funding extension is not made and/or approved, all unspent Year 1 non-implementation funding will be reabsorbed by ASPO for distribution to other initiatives.

12. Budget modifications

Requests for changes to the approved budget must be made in writing to access@utoronto.ca with a clear rationale for consideration.

13. Sustainability

Given the ongoing nature of access initiatives, it is important to consider the needs and expectations your initiative may create. Will staff contracts be longer than APUF funding timeline? Will the funding from APUF develop a new support or resource in your division that participants may continue to expect and/or rely upon after the end date of your project? It is important to consider these matters as part of your initiative completion and/or sustainability planning. The budget form includes “Confirmed” and “Unconfirmed/Anticipated” sources of funding. Please include how you plan to achieve sustainability in your application.